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REVIEWS OF RECENT LITERATURE.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

African Skulls.¹—F. Shrubsall has had exceptional opportunities to study African crania, and has produced a model paper describing the skulls of the Bantus of South Africa. The large number of crania in the series, some two hundred, has enabled him to fairly revel in seriations and averages. How great a satisfaction it is to the craniologist to gain access to a large series is known only to those who have dealt with small numbers of specimens, “too few to furnish satisfactory conclusions,” or “too fragmentary for definite results.” On the other hand, the study of such a collection involves an immense amount of labor, some idea of which may be gained from the number of measurements recorded in the accompanying tables, which, by the way, appear to better advantage in the enlarged *Journal of the Anthropological Institute* than in the former demi-octavo size. The metrical method is followed in the paper, and the text suffices merely to interpret the figures. This we believe to be the most satisfactory method, though it must be admitted that the descriptions of the “impressionist school” of craniologists have a certain value.

Mr. Shrubsall concludes that the most striking feature of the A-bantu crania is that they are remarkably uniform from all parts of the area under consideration. In the south the skulls show marks of intermixture with the Bushman-Hottentot race. In the east the cranium is also modified, and the question of mixture with Semito-Hamitic peoples is raised. In the northwest the presence of negroid characters indicates crossing with the negroes from the region north of the Congo. Finally, “the obvious affinities” of the Bantus “are with the Monbuttu of Niam-Niam, and the peoples of the Zeriba country, and the Welle-Nile divide.” These conclusions are in accordance with the teachings of history and philology. F. R.

Ceremonial Stones.—In the *Proceedings of the Linnæan Society of New South Wales* for December, 1898, Mr. Walter R. Harper

¹ Shrubsall, F. A Study of A-bantu Skulls and Crania, *Jour. Anthropol. Ins.*, N. S., vol. i, Nos. 1, 2, pp. 55-103.